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Identical letters dated 2 April 2015 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On the morning of Wednesday, 1 April 2015, hundreds of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorists, in coordination with terrorists from the Nusrah Front, entered the Yarmouk Palestine refugee camp. Their aim was to commit additional crimes against the camp's residents and force them to leave, and to wreck the local reconciliation agreement, which was meant to be signed on Friday, 3 April 2015. In so doing, the terrorists have endangered the lives of the camp's Palestinian and Syrian residents, whom they are now using as human shields. This crime is the latest in the series of crimes that have been committed by armed terrorist groups, including such groups as the Free Army, ISIL, the Nusrah Front and other armed terrorist groups affiliated with Al-Qaida, that are receiving their orders from foreign States and actors, and is consistent with the incidents that occurred in Busra al-Sham, Idlib and the village of Mab'ujah. All of this was facilitated by the Turkish and Jordanian regimes, which enabled the thousands of terrorists that they have trained to infiltrate Syria and commit crimes against innocent Syrian civilians.

Since the start of the conflict, the Syrian Arab Republic has strived assiduously to ensure that the Palestinians do not get dragged into the ongoing events, in order to protect them. However, the Nusrah Front, which is financed and supported by the Turkish and Qatari regimes and the Saudis, enabled the armed terrorist groups to infiltrate the Yarmouk camp and other locations and undermined the efforts of the Syrian Government to keep the Palestinians out of the current events. This action serves as clear evidence that the Nusrah Front, other terrorist groups and Israel have the same interests, namely, to work against the Palestinian cause and deny the Palestinians their right to return to the cities, villages and homes that were usurped from them in occupied Palestine.

The armed terrorist groups stormed the Yarmouk camp more than two years ago, occupying it and besieging it from within. They have killed its residents, taken their property and displaced the majority of them. The terrorists have also prevented

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assistance from being brought in to the camp's residents, and that has led to tremendous human suffering. In response, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, in cooperation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and some non-governmental organizations, has sought to deliver humanitarian and relief supplies to beneficiaries inside the camp. The delivery of such supplies has taken place in the presence of representatives of all the Palestinian organizations. From 30 December 2014 until the date on which this latest crime was committed, the above-mentioned parties together managed to deliver 61,882 food parcels and 11,618 health packages. They did so despite incessant sniping by the armed terrorist groups at humanitarian teams. In addition, some 4,856 ill persons were evacuated, so that they could receive appropriate treatment. For the second successive day, sniper and rocket fire from the armed terrorist groups has prevented residents from reaching the aid distribution point. The distribution of assistance to the camp's besieged residents has therefore stopped.

The fact that the Nusrah Front facilitated the entry of the terrorist group ISIL into parts of the camps is undeniable evidence that those organizations are exchanging roles, as circumstances dictate, and confirms the close ties between them. It also exposes the reality behind the image that some are trying to paint of the Nusrah Front as being the "moderate armed opposition" and undermines the efforts of the ruling regimes in Doha, Riyadh, Ankara, Amman and Tel Aviv to promote the idea that the Nusrah Front can be rehabilitated, so that they can then use it to implement their agendas. Such efforts are in stark violation of Security Council resolutions under which that organization is designated a terrorist entity.

Given that Palestine refugee camps must be given special humanitarian treatment, and in view of the suffering that the Palestinian people have endured as a result of the ongoing Israeli occupation of its land and the denial of its inalienable rights, the Syrian Arab Republic calls on the United Nations and the Security Council to intervene immediately and put pressure on Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Israel and Jordan, which are financing, sponsoring and supporting the terrorists, to withdraw their armed terrorists from the Yarmouk camp, in order to safeguard the lives and preserve the safety of Palestinian civilians. The withdrawal of the terrorists would also allow humanitarian and relief supplies to continue to reach camp residents, who are suffering from the terrorists' blockade and tyranny, and would allow the reconciliation agreement to be signed.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 107, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Haydar **Ali Ahmad**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.